



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305174
Inspection date	21 June 2006
Inspector	Anneliese Fox-Jones

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
--

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged eight and 13 years. They live in a house in Potters Bar, which is close to local shops, schools and parks. Most areas of the house are used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of two children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding two children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate health and hygiene procedures and practices through day to day routines. Suitable measures help maintain effective hygiene of the toys and resources. Children enjoy activities which help them to develop their physical skills, as they attend various toddler groups, tumble tots, visit local parks and enjoy playing in the garden. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and as discussed with parents.

The childminder has completed a recent first aid course, although a suitable first aid box is not available. Relevant documentation is in place and children are cared for appropriately if they become unwell. However, important written parental permissions are not obtained. Consequently, this compromises children's welfare.

Children are nourished. They are generally provided with snacks and meals prepared by their parents. Children also enjoy additional snacks and drinks provided by the childminder. Drinks and fruit is readily available and accessible to children at all times. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and any likes, dislikes or allergies are taken into consideration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming environment. Most risks have been identified and addressed. However, there remains some weaknesses in safety that children are not fully protected from. Children are kept safe outdoors as they walk to local parks, staying close to the childminder or travelling in a buggy. They are beginning to learn to keep themselves safe as they are taught basic road safety when crossing roads. Older children are given clear boundaries about not running off. They must wait at certain points and always within sight. Children travel safely in cars with suitable car seats. Relevant documentation is in place with the exception of parental consent for outings.

Children are able to move around safely, with some freedom and independence around the areas available to them. They use suitable and safe equipment. An adequate range of toys are accessible to the children and resources are kept clean. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder supervises them well. She understands her role in child protection and has relevant literature to refer to if she had any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a homely and comfortable environment and are happy to attend. They experience a sufficient range of activities that contribute to their development inside and outside of the home. Children have their individual needs met and incorporated into the daily routine. Younger children benefit from the one-to-one attention and support that they receive during the day. Children benefit from regular outings. They have regular opportunities to go shopping, attend toddler groups and visit friends.

Activities and routines are planned to encourage children to enjoy and achieve. For example; play dough, baking and creative play. Children's needs are cared for sensitively and the childminder ensures she is approachable to the children. Although the childminder may select resources or initiate an activity, children also have opportunities to make their own choices and are supported in doing so. The childminder does not have a copy of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. A clear understanding of this has the potential to enhance the care and opportunities offered to young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are becoming aware of the wider society through an appropriate selection of toys and resources such as dolls, books, dressing up and in the future planned activities throughout the year. Children are made to feel a sense of belonging as their individual needs are respected. They are made to feel welcome and are treated as part of the family.

The childminder is aware that some children may have special needs and may require additional support to enable them to be fully included in the setting. Praise and encouragement promotes good behaviour. Children learn to understand responsible behaviour as the childminder is firm but also calm in her approach with the children. If required children may be given time out to consider any unacceptable or unwanted behaviour.

Children are cared for by a childminder who works well with parents to help children settle. She is keen to have a gradual settling in period. Communication is through regular chats where parents and the childminder share information and parents are informed about the child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises time sufficiently well to meet the requirements of the children. As children arrive early in the morning the childminder is organised to provide breakfast, activities and fit in with the children's usual routines. The childminder ensures that she can give her time and attention fully to the children. Children's care is supported by effective adult and child ratios. Consequently, children receive plenty of support.

Children are comfortable within their environment. They are protected and cared for by a childminder who supervises them well and has completed some child care training such as first aid, food hygiene, child protection and behaviour management. The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and understanding further. The childminder is flexible in her childminding arrangements and works professionally to develop effective relationships with parents. Most relevant documentation and records are in place. The childminder has sound communication with parents which contributes to the children's continuity of care. Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- obtain and maintain a first aid box the contents of which are checked and replaced as necessary; request written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure hazards to the children are minimised, this refers to windows, trampoline and fire blanket
- obtain written parental consent for outings and transporting children
- develop the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to enhance the care and opportunities offered to young children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk